

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-03

COME-00 SMI-01 SAJ-01 EB-07 AGR-05 SAM-01 /073 W

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R 140638Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4157

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 2642

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, PINT, CH

SUBJECT: TENG, HUA LEAD EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY

REF: PEKING 290

1. THE FULL SERIOUSNESS OF THE FEBRUARY EARTHQUAKE IN LIAONING IS STILL COMING OUT, AND ACCORDING TO A PRC-OWNED HONG KONG NEWSPAPER TOP CHINESE LEADERS TOOK CHARGE OF RELIEF WORK IN THE DISASTER AREA. POLITBURO MEMBER AND FIRST VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING PERSONALLY INSPECTED THE EARTHQUAKE SITE AND ASSIGNED A COMFORT GROUP HEADED BY FELLOW POLITBURO MEMBER AND VICE PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG TO DEAL WITH THE DISASTER, ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN THE MARCH 13 HSIN WAN PAO. THIS MARKS THE HIGHEST LEVEL ATTENTION TO A NATURAL DISASTER IN RECENT TIMES.

2. THE REPORT WENT ON TO STATE THAT IN ONE OF THE TWO AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE, HAICHENG, THE LIAONING MILITARY DISTRICT HAD DESPATCHED 15 REGIMENTS (OVER 40,000 MEN) TO HELP WITH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. THE PAPER ALSO REVEALED THAT AN HOUR AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE, AN EXTENSIVE
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AIRLIFT WAS INITIATED AND MORE THEN 780 MOTOR VEHICLES WERE

ALSO USED TO CARRY RELIEF SUPPLIES. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER NEWS
REPORT HUA KUO-FENG INDICATED IN LATE FEBRUARY TO THE NEW
ZEALAND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES THAT DAMAGE TO
PROPERTY WAS SERIOUS AS SCIENTISTS HAD EARLIER FORECAST THE MAGNITUDE
OF THE EARTHQUAKE AT A RANGE OF SIX INSTEAD OF 7.3 LATER
REGISTERED ON THE RICHTER SCALE.
CROSS

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